

Message Text

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ACTION NASA-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 SCI-06 L-03 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15

RSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-15

PRS-01 EUR-25 ACDA-19 EB-11 COME-00 MC-02 TRSE-00

OMB-01 RSR-01 /145 W

----- 000315

P 201340Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5567

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L TANANARIVE 1151

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TSPA, NASA, MA

SUBJ: RENEWAL OF NASA TRACKING STATION AGREEMENT WITH GOMR

REF: STATE 158441

DEPT PASS NASA

PRETORIA PASS TRUSZYNSKI

1. NEGOTIATIONS FOR RENEWAL STATION AGREEMENT LAUNCHED 17 AUG BY DCM'S LEAVING COPY DRAFT NOTE, AS APPROVED REFTTEL, WITH MOFA DIRECTOR OF BILATERAL RELATIONS RATSIMANDRESY.

2. RATSIMANDRESY WAS APPARENTLY UNAWARE EXPIRATION OPERATING AGREEMENT AS EARLY AS 31 DEC THIS YEAR. SAID CATEGORICALLY THAT GOMR WANTS STATION TO KEEP OPERATING. GOMR IS, HOWEVER, CONCERNED ABOUT CRITICISM FROM PRO-SOVIET AKFM, URBAN MAOISTS, AND FORMER VP ANDRE RESAMPA'S USM. LATTER'S POSITION IS SOUR GRAPES, HE INDICATED, BUT NO RPT NO LESS DANGEROUS. MOST CRITICAL PERIOD IS FROM NOW UNTIL ELECTION 21 OCT OF NATIONAL POPULAR DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (ADVISORY BODY TO GOVT DURING FIVE-YEAR INTERIM CONSTITUTION). ALTHOUGH RATSIMANDRESY DID NOT SAY NO SPECIFICALLY, HE LEFT IMPRESSION THAT CONCLUSION FINAL AGREEMENT MIGHT BE DE-CONFIDENTIAL

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FERRED UNTIL AFTER ELECTIONS.

3. WHETHER OR NOT RPT NOT NEGOTIATIONS ARE ALLOWED DRAG UNTIL AFTER ELECTIONS, IT HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY EVIDENT FROM FONMIN RATSIRAKA'S COMMENTS IN WASH AND CAPE KENNEDY, AND RATSIMANDRESY'S HERE, THAT GOMR HAS IN MIND SOME KIND OF QUID PRO QUO, AND WILL PROBABLY ARGUE THAT THIS IS NECESSARY, IN ADDITION TO GOAL OF COMPLETE MALAGASIZATION AND GOMR RIGHT OF INSPECTION, TO ASSUAGE CRITICS.

4. WE THEREFORE TOOK OCCASION OF OPENING OF NEGOTIATIONS ON RENEWAL STATION AGREEMENT TO INDICATE THAT WE PREPARED TURN OVER ABOUT \$250,000 WORTH OF EXCESS NASA COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT IN WHICH MALAGASY P&T INTERESTED AND FURNISH NEW WEATHER PHOTO MACHINE WHICH MALAGASY METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE HAS REQUESTED TO

REPLACE EXISTING OBSOLETE MACHINE SUPPLIED EARLIER BY NASA. WE ALSO REFERRED TO ERS TRAINING POSSIBILITIES IN US FOR MALAGASY. DCM MADE IT CLEAR THAT, FOR REASONS OF PRINCIPLE, WE CANNOT FORMALLY LABEL SUCH EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING AS QUID PRO QUO, BUT GOMR COULD TREAT THEM AS SUCH IF THAT WOULD SERVE ITS PURPOSES.

5. FONMIN RATSIRAKA WILL RECEIVE TRUSZYNSKI MORNING 25 AUG AT TIME YET TO BE DETERMINED (TANANARIVE 1122). ALTHOUGH THIS WILL PRIMARILY BE COURTESY CALL, RATSIRAKA MAY BRING UP QUESTION OF PLANS FOR MALAGASIZATION AND TYPES OF NASA AGREEMENTS ELSEWHERE.

6. IN VIEW CURRENT CRITICISM OF STATION IN CERTAIN MALAGASY CIRCLES, WE BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT PROCEED WITH STATION ORIENTATION BROCHURE, DRAFT OF WHICH SUBMITTED WAS IN MAY FOR APPROVAL. THEREFORE, REQUEST REPLY TANANARIVE'S 0683.
MENDENHALL

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